

CROTHERS. (T. D.)

SKETCH

OF THE LATE

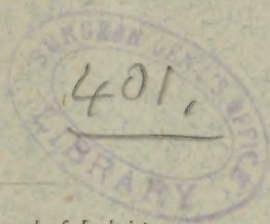
DR. J. EDWARD TURNER,

THE FOUNDER OF INEBRIATE ASYLUMS.

Compliments of

BY T. D. CROTHERS, M. D.,

HARTFORD, CONN.



From the Quarterly Journal of Inebriety.

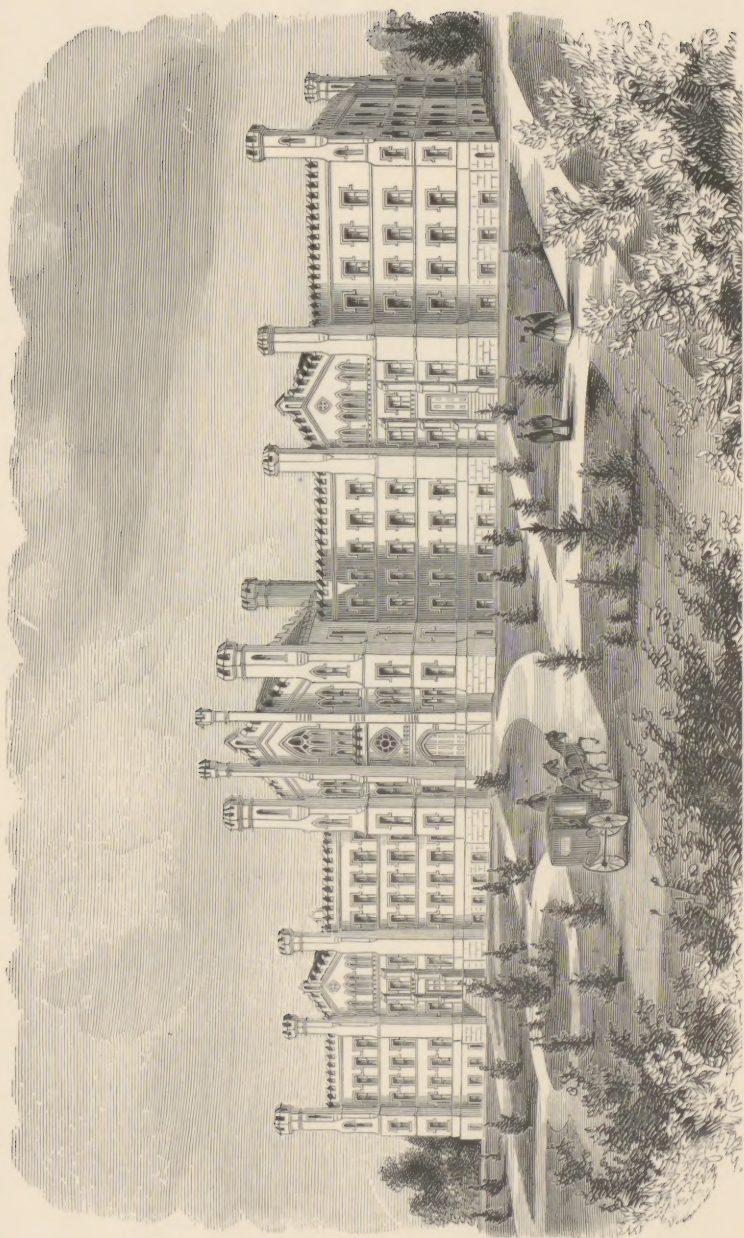
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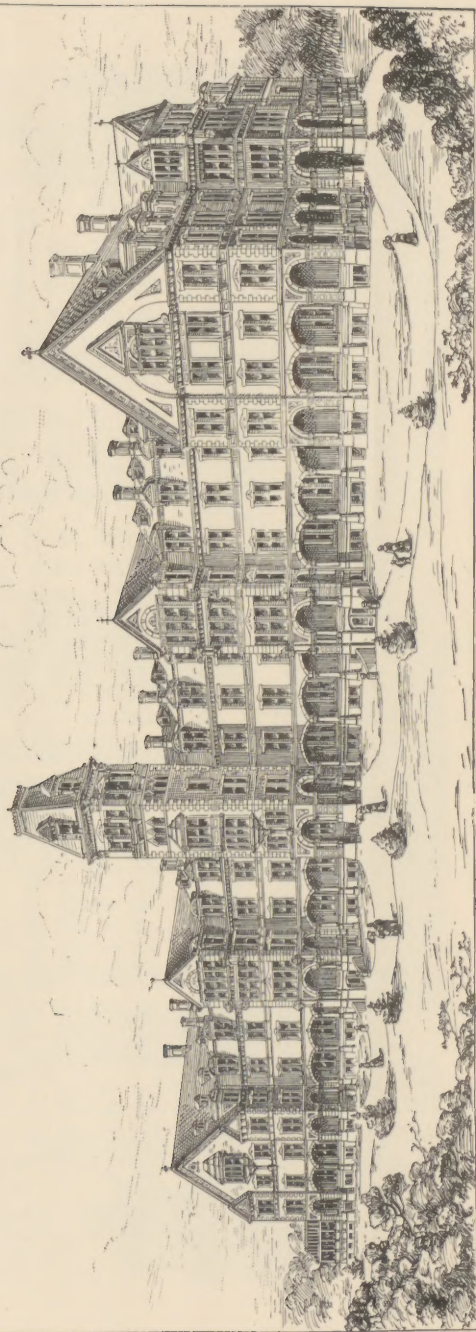
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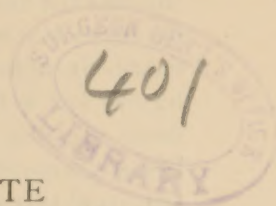
The Founder



THE NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.



WOMEN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL.



SKETCH OF THE LATE
DR. J. EDWARD TURNER,
THE FOUNDER OF INEBRIATE ASYLUMS.

BY T. D. CROTHERS, M.D., HARTFORD, CONN.

"The thing that hath been shall be, and there is nothing new under the sun." Through all the past there have been pioneers and heroes that have led the world's progress far in advance of their day and generation. The forlorn hope of truth has ever been a service of peril. The man who would plant the flags on the ramparts has had to brave the hatred and scorn of his cotemporaries. Every great advance, every great reformation has had to contend with bitter prejudice, misrepresentation, and fierce opposition. The few men who, like picket guards, have been far in the van of the march of science, have died unknown and unrecognized, but another generation has made their names and deeds immortal. Thus the world's benefactors have ever been unknown, unpopular, and unappreciated. "The thing that hath been shall be, and there is nothing new under the sun." The founder of inebriate asylums has had the same experience, has passed over the same thorny road, and been sustained

through the long weary night march of his life by the flashing dawn of a new era bursting up the skies. He died comparatively unknown, as the world's pioneers ever have, but he has left a record of deeds that will carry his name far down into the coming centuries. An outline sketch of his life at present will assist in future and more thorough studies of this very remarkable man and his work.

James Edward Turner was born in Bath, Maine, October 5, 1822. His father was one of the first settlers of that city, and was a successful farmer and ship-builder all his life. His mother was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts, her parents having emigrated from England in 1800. His early life was spent at home, assisting his father in the ship-yard and attending school and the village academy, where he was noted as a very active, proficient scholar, standing at the head of his class. He prepared for college at home, and then gave up the plan of a classical education, and began the study of medicine with a neighboring physician. After attending two courses of lectures in Philadelphia he was licensed to practice by the Maine Medical Society. Later, he opened an office at Trenton, New Jersey, and two years later gave up the general practice and entered upon his life work. During his student life and after he began to practice medicine he had to take care of an inebriate uncle who was a dyspsomaniac at intervals of several months. This uncle insisted on having his nephew with him on every drink paroxysm. Out of this experience came the idea of an inebriate asylum, where such cases could be *secluded, housed, and treated*. This idea, wherever mentioned, at first was treated with derision and contempt. The effect of this was to rouse all his energies to a more careful study of this theory, creating a more emphatic conviction of its truthfulness. Finding no one in sympathy with him in this view, he determined to go abroad and present his ideas of an asylum before the leading medical men of the world.

In 1843, he landed in Glasgow, Scotland, and called on all the leading medical men of that city and Edinburgh, and

placed before them his ideas of disease and plans of an asylum. He probably made but little impression, as most of the medical men of that day drank more or less freely. But they were courteous, and showed him their hospitals and gave him many facts concerning such cases. From here he went to London and Paris, and beyond a few facts and a personal acquaintance with leading medical men and visits to many hospitals he seems to have accomplished but little. He spent two years visiting most of the asylums and hospitals of any note and discussing his views with the medical men connected with them. On his return in 1845, he began the first *collective investigation of facts ever made in this country*. A series of circular letters were addressed to physicians, clergymen, judges, and coroners soliciting facts in their experience upon the physical, mental, moral, social, criminal, and economic status of the inebriate. These circulars brought but few replies and excited but little interest. The following is his own statement of this work :

"During the first three years more than three thousand circulars sent to physicians elicited but one hundred and thirty-four replies ; more than seven hundred sent to the clergy, with but seventy-nine replies ; more than five hundred sent to judges, with but one hundred and seven replies ; while to the seventy four circulars sent to coroners, there were sixty four replies. The fourth year's labor in this special work brought a better return. Out of fifteen hundred circulars sent out, five hundred and sixty were answered, and every year thereafter there was an increased interest manifested by those addressed upon this subject."

The great enthusiasm and perseverance, which was a marked feature of his life, came out clearly in this work. The persistent inquiries which he made among those who might know facts concerning the inebriate were at last rewarded by a fund of accurate knowledge to sustain the theory of disease and the need of an asylum. He seems to have carried with him to Europe circular blanks, on which the various replies of medical and other men were recorded.

During this period, while sending circular letters, he seems to have spent his time in hospitals in New York and Philadelphia, making notes and observations and enlisting the sympathy of eminent men. Drs. Valentine Mott and John W. Francis, both very eminent physicians, and others, very warmly approved and indorsed his plan of an asylum and the theory of disease. Soon after his return from Europe, in 1845, they became interested in the work, and continued all their lives to be his warmest friends. In an address before a small parlor group of gentlemen, who met to talk over the scheme of an asylum, in the winter of 1847, Dr. Mott used the following language, which Dr. Turner quoted ever after with intense satisfaction: "In my professional life of over forty years, I have accumulated facts enough to prove the disease of inebriety beyond all doubt,—a disease affecting every membrane, tissue, and nerve of the human mechanism, producing in its victim a compound fracture from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet, as well as mental and moral dislocation. The treatment of such a malady with success must come from the legal splint and bandage applied to the sick man, to hold him in place during the process of healing, or the treatment fails and the patient dies."

While a few men became interested, the opposition to the idea of disease and hospital treatment was very bitter, especially among the religious and secular press, and but few men were bold enough to sustain or urge this view. In 1848, Dr. Turner made a second voyage to Europe. He carried letters from the Russian minister at New York to the authorities at St. Petersburg, and was given every facility to study the drink question in hospitals and police courts of St. Petersburg and Moscow.

He then traveled in Germany, Italy, and France, and came home in 1849. He seems to have had an idea that he could get a personal endorsement and full recognition of his theory in the leading capitals of Europe, and with this he could command patronage and attention in this country.

Beyond this, he made a study of all the asylums and hospitals, and of the methods of treatment and views of prison managers bearing on the drink question. His success was apparently no greater than on his former visit. He was always reticent as to exact results of these visits, but talked freely of the warm endorsement his plans received from leading medical men, and their courtesy in giving him all facilities to study hospital plans and methods. It was evident he could get no open or public endorsement, but the private sympathy he enlisted was a great stimulus to him in all after life.

Up to 1850 he had spent about six years in active efforts to create a public sentiment in favor of the hospital treatment of inebriety. This was done in the most elaborate scientific way. It is doubtful if any new truth was ever pressed on the minds of the professional world by means and methods so exact and above all possible suspicion of personal motives.

Dr. Turner's life work had barely begun; the little he had accomplished and stern opposition he had encountered would have, to most men, been evidence of the impossibility of the work. But to him it only roused a greater enthusiasm and energy and positive conviction in ultimate success.

Although he had secured the sympathy and interest of many leading men nothing tangible had been accomplished. Finally he determined to go personally to all the leading men of the country and solicit them to subscribe for the stock of a company to build an inebriate asylum. The stock was fixed at ten dollars a share, and the subscriptions were made on the condition that fifty thousand dollars should be subscribed to its capital stock and that the legislature should grant it a charter. Several subscriptions were received to be paid when the building should be finished, and when the asylum should have twenty patients under treatment, and when the first patient should be discharged cured and remained so for one year. These special contracts show the doubt and uncertainty with which this scheme was regarded.

Three thousand persons were solicited to subscribe, and only sixty-six were found willing to aid it.

An application was drawn up asking the legislature of New York to charter an inebriate asylum in 1852. This was laid on the table as a mere scheme. The next year, 1853, it was pressed at both the regular and extra sessions of the legislature, and was referred to a committee, which gave it a hearing, but referred it to the next legislature. In 1854 a charter was granted to a corporation called the *United States Inebriate Asylum*. Dr. Turner spent his entire time soliciting the members of the legislature and their constituents to grant this charter. When the legislature adjourned he went to the constituents of those members who had been most violent in their opposition, and by personal influence with the leading men sought to neutralize and overcome this opposition. The influential friends of all the leading members were visited and enlisted in the work as far as possible, and each member was seen and made acquainted with all the plans and its needs. This most elaborate plan of creating interest in the charter was met by the most stubborn opposition from clergy, medical men, and others, who pronounced the whole scheme a fraud and disgrace to the intelligence of the country. Finally, the chairman of the legislative committee sent word to Dr. Turner that he would report and urge the passage of a charter for an asylum, and a permanent organization should be made. One hundred and forty persons who had expressed an interest in the work were solicited to allow their names to go on the board of directors, and only twenty had courage enough to consent. A meeting was appointed, and at two p. m., on the fifteenth of May, 1854, in the *Tract Society Building*, on *Nassau Street*, in New York city, eleven men met and adopted articles of incorporation and elected officers of the *United States Inebriate Asylum*, the first ever organized. The rain poured in torrents, and the busy world of New York went on as usual, all unconscious of the vast interests and consequences that were to grow out of that little gather-

ing. It was like the planting of a flag on the hill tops of science half a century ahead of the march of public opinion, or the opening of a door revealing a new era in the progress of humanitarian science.

A few weeks later the charter was granted, and Dr. Turner, who was made treasurer, opened books to receive subscriptions to the capital stock of the company. The summer following this meeting Dr. Turner spent as before, traveling and soliciting subscriptions to the stock. In the second meeting of the board of directors, on Dec. 20, 1854, Dr. Turner delivered an address, which was published and circulated very extensively. The title was *The History and Pathology of Inebriety*. In many respects it was a very notable paper. His description of dyspomania and the allied diseases of inebriety, and his distinction of the insanity of inebriety (the latter being the first reference to this form of inebriety), all indicated a very clear conception of the subject. This was the second of his published papers; the first was a two-page tract, on the morbid anatomy and pathology, published in 1848, of only historic interest at this time.

The next year, 1855, the board of directors issued an appeal to the public to subscribe to the capital stock, and the first public meeting was held to rouse public sympathy. This meeting was very extensively advertised, and all the leading clergymen were requested to read notices of it from their pulpits. Many of them declined, and some of the religious and temperance papers offered serious opposition. Most excellent addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. Bellows and Prof. Hitchcock to a small gathering, which were published in the daily papers, and created a very strong impression. The next year was spent in visiting all parts of the country soliciting subscriptions from eminent men and creating public sentiment. A strong impression prevailed among some of the friends that if it were made a State asylum it would grow much faster. Hence, in 1857, the legislature changed the name of the corporation to the *New York State Inebriate Asylum*. Then it was announced that the

town that would give the most eligible site for the location of the building would have the asylum. The city of Binghamton having offered the finest location, it was accordingly located there.

It was early apparent to Dr. Turner that the subscriptions of ten dollars to the capital stock was too slow a process for raising the money to build an asylum. So, in 1857, he presented a monster petition to the legislature to give one-tenth of the excise money for the purpose of building and maintaining the asylum. This petition found only one adherent in the legislature of that year. This petition he circulated in every section of the State personally, and during three years he obtained over ten thousand names to it, and urged its recognition by the legislature for 1857-58, and finally, in 1859, it became a law. Thus, night and day, year after year, he solicited subscriptions and begged names on the petition, and argued the reality of the disease of inebriety and the need of asylums with all classes in all sections. In May, 1858, the gift of two hundred and fifty acres of land as a building site was accepted by the board of directors from the city of Binghamton. The ground was broken for a building the next month, in June, and the corner-stone was laid on the twenty-fourth of September, the same year, 1858. This was an event of very significant interest, and although the rain poured in torrents, yet the programme was carried out minutely and with great enthusiasm. The Masons laid the corner-stone, and the addresses by Dr. John W. Francis of New York, Rev. Dr. Bellows, Edward Everett, Daniel S. Dickinson, and the president, Hon. B. F. Butler, and a poem by Alfred B. Street, were all great efforts, fully equal to the occasion. They all, in a most pleasing way, recognized the genius and enthusiasm of Dr. Turner, as the great founder and originator of the plan of hospital treatment. After referring to the great novelty of this event, they all dropped into a prophetic strain and predicted that the asylum and Dr. Turner's name and work would go far down into the future, and that this was but the forerunner of many similar

places that would surely follow, in obedience to a necessity which would be recognized everywhere. These addresses were published in a bound volume, and show, in a most significant way, that the speakers had caught the real spirit of the event, and realized that beyond the asylum whose cornerstone they were laying opened up a new field for the salvation of the race, and, beyond the magnetism and energy of Dr. Turner, other men in other times would rise up and carry on the work here begun.

Dr. Valentine Mott, who was later the president of the asylum, secured, with Dr. Turner's aid, a petition to the legislature asking that an appropriation be made to sustain and build the asylum, signed by fifteen hundred physicians, comprising nearly all the eminent men of the State. It is doubtful if ever so general an appeal was made to the legislature by medical men before or since. Then Dr. Turner sent circular letters to all the superintendents of insane asylums in this country, and to all the leading specialists of Europe, soliciting their opinions and advice. The responses were numerous and almost unanimous in warm sympathy for the work. Dr. Gray of Utica was the only one who responded expressing doubts and fear of endorsement. Editors of medical journals in both this country and Europe advocated the need of an asylum with great urgency. The legislature, although they had passed a law appropriating one-tenth of the license fund, were dominated by an ultra temperance and religious element, and so found objections to the enactment of the law. Finally, the petitions grew to such a magnitude that almost fifty per cent. of the property of the State was represented by the petitioners. Dr. Turner traveled night and day begging subscriptions and material for building and the names of leading men on the petition, which at length contained the names of sixty leading judges of the State, six hundred lawyers, two thousand physicians, five thousand leading business men and farmers. This was also a phenomenal petition, which attracted great attention at the time.

Dr. Turner was the active spirit and chief leader of the entire movement. He drew the plans of the building at Binghamton with the aid of a local carpenter, who acted as builder under his care, and purchased or begged all the material, employing and paying all the help, and actively superintending every detail with the aid of this carpenter (who has now become famous as a builder). The plan of the building was Dr. Turner's own creation, and grew out of his studies of European asylums, and in many respects is one of the most beautiful architectural buildings in the country. The president and board of directors were active professional and business men, who, finding Dr. Turner so very energetic and clear as to the details of building and the methods of organization, left the entire business in his hands, and, beyond advice and consultation and monthly meetings of the board, did but little except to write letters and solicit aid from personal friends.

The first president of the board of directors was John D. Wright, elected in 1854. Three years later he resigned, on removal from New York, and Hon. B. F. Butler, a noted lawyer and attorney-general under President Jackson, and secretary of war in Van Buren's administration, succeeded him. He died in 1858, and Dr. John W. Francis was elected to fill his place. He died a few weeks after his election, and Chancellor Walworth succeeded him. He resigned from ill health in 1861, and Dr. Valentine Mott of New York followed him as president. In 1865 he died, and Dr. Willard Parker was elected to fill his place. All these men except Dr. Parker had been on the board of directors and actively acquainted with all the work and the spirit of its founder. They had subscribed liberally to the funds, and three of them left large legacies to the asylum, provisionally, which were never received, owing to the failure of the board to comply with the bequests.

The building of the asylum had progressed so far that it was deemed wise to open it for patients in June, 1864. A number of inebriates were admitted, and Dr. Turner, who

had been made superintendent, continued in charge. The same year a fire occurred in the north part of the building, which did a great deal of damage.

While actively engaged in building the asylum and traveling to all parts of the State collecting moneys and influencing the legislature at Albany, Dr. Turner found time to marry. In October, 1862, he married Miss Gertrude, the daughter of Col. George Middlebrook, one of the oldest and most respected settlers of Wilton, Conn. His life work was at its height. He had created public sentiment, roused an interest in inebriate asylums all over the world, founded the first asylum, begged the money and material to build it. The work was partially completed, the State was aiding in the work by appropriating a part of the excise fund. One wing of the building was completed and opened for patients. The most active interest was manifested all over the State in the work. Dr. Turner was most enthusiastically praised, and recognized as the great presiding genius and founder of this, the latest, most promising charity of the world. The former sharp opposition had grown insignificant and unworthy of notice. Dr. Turner was both the founder and superintendent and manager, and the work went on with an ever-widening interest and expectation. Although he had given over a quarter of a century of continuous enthusiastic work, the success at this point was phenomenal. Pioneers rarely see the result of their labors. The great sowers of truth rarely ever see the reapers or harvest.

The board of directors were in full sympathy and worked unitedly with him in all directions, and his plans for the future of the asylum and its prosperity were far-reaching and broad. A palace building, heavily endowed and complete in every respect, with room for rich and poor, with workshops, farm labor, and every appliance which science has only recently showed to be essential in the treatment. His ideal asylum, as projected at Binghamton, was at least a century ahead of the times, and is not yet understood. It was practically a workhouse hospital on a military basis, restraint and

control being the corner-stone. Each case was regarded as a suicidal mania needing positive restraint and constant care and watching. No one was received for less than one year, and no one was trusted on his honor or word to recover. Extensive Turkish and Russian baths were provided, and each case was required to take two baths a week, and spend so many hours in the gymnasium or in the workshop. Elaborate rules were laid down regulating all the conduct and care of the patient, and a most thorough system of medical and military treatment enforced.

There is not an institution in the world to-day with so complete a system of treatment, and every practical man has recognized this almost wonderful conception of the means and measures necessary for the cure of these cases. Dr. Turner's plan of an asylum and its management has never been fully understood, and should form the subject of a future chapter.

In this brief sketch we have outlined the beginning and growth of the asylum at Binghamton, and the extraordinary energy and enthusiasm of Dr. Turner in creating public sentiment and building the asylum, and this brings us to the storm region, which every great advance of truth has to encounter.

Heavy head winds had blown continually over the track of this enterprise, and now sudden squalls and cyclones of adverse public opinion gave certain signs of the storm region. The projection and building of an inebriate asylum was a distinct work, and the management and treatment of inebriates was equally new and distinct. The opposition which had retarded the work for a quarter of a century seemed to die away in part, only to break out again with renewed vigor when the question of treatment came up. Dr. Turner's management of the asylum and its patients was sharp, distinct, and emphatic. The institution was a hospital and the remedies were physical, and the individuality of the patient must conform to the principles and the laws of the asylum. As in the founding of the asylum Dr. Turner

had formed very clear conceptions of the practical needs and methods of treatment, which were far beyond his day and generation. Looking back after a period of twenty years of experience and advance in this direction, one is greatly surprised to find how accurate and correct Dr. Turner's measures and methods of treatment were. Every asylum superintendent realizes, from actual experience, that control of the patient and all his surroundings should be absolute to make the cure a possibility. That this control should extend over a long time, and not be governed by the will of patient or his non-expert friends. This was the first principle of treatment laid down and defended by Dr. Turner. On the other side the moralists and patients' friends assumed that each case should have full liberty to determine the question of treatment, and that moral appliances should be foremost of all; also that the asylum should be a popular resort for the patients in every way; that restraint should be only nominal, and the patient's choice and discretion should be consulted.

These views and their advocates were treated with just contempt by Dr. Turner and the board of directors, who were in full accord with him in his conceptions of treatment. In 1865, Dr. Willard Parker of New York city was elected president. Unfortunately, he was a man without any clear conceptions of the inebriate, and without any idea of truths or principles that were unpopular or ignored by the present. As a profound believer in public opinion of to-day, he could not comprehend pioneers or pioneer work, and could not understand how anything could be true that was opposed by the popular sentiment of the hour.

The great central orb of his life was the "Vox populi vox Dei" theory, and to keep on the very crest of popular opinion was his highest ambition.

About this time an unscrupulous lawyer became a member of the board of trustees, a man whose only purpose in life was to get rich, and the asylum and its work was to him a means to this end. As in all the great tragedies of the

world, he played the part of heavy villain with success. The financial records of the asylum leave no doubt on this point.

Soon after Dr. Parker became president he complained that the mental irritations and complaints of the patients under treatment were evidence of the failure of Dr. Turner's methods, which he proposed to remedy, by larger liberty, and by placing them on their honor, as they were "all members of Christian households," etc., etc. Dr. Turner replied "that these patients were suffering from a physical disease, and the source of mental irritation was from within. The promise and pledge had long ago been exhausted, and the asylum never recognized any promise or honor of the patient. The restraints were lessened as the patient improved, and manifested greater physical strength," etc., etc.

It was evident from this that another storm was gathering, and the board of trustees who had up to this time been in full accord with Dr. Turner would now divide.

Dr. Parker, true to his ideals of life, concluded that the asylum could be made popular, and that patients would come as freely and cheerfully as invalids to the healing waters of a medicinal spring. Here was an opportunity to become the great leader in a new and popular cause, and his lawyer friend on the board, with wily cunning, fostered this view. Hence, Dr. Turner's friends in the board of trustees must be replaced by others who would unite with Dr. Parker and his plans. Then began a series of intrigues and efforts to get certain members of the board to resign and put others in their place, at first very secretly. Then these efforts became bolder, and finally a resolution was offered of inquiry into the finances. When these were found correct, the question came up how Dr. Turner should be paid for his services, he having received no salary for all his years of labor. When it was found that two years before Dr. Mott had offered a resolution that Dr. Turner receive a salary and all expenses incurred in building the asylum, and this be credited as paid-up stock to the asylum, they refused to recognize it as binding. Then they offered him six months' vacation in Europe

with full salary. When he declined, they demanded a full financial statement; this being found correct, a minority of the board dismissed him and put the assistant physician in his place. A full board reinstated him; then followed charges of illegality of the action of the board. Thus the year of 1866 was passed in the most disgraceful intrigues and efforts to drive Dr. Turner away, and make his management a failure. Patients were inspired to drink and keep up a ferment. Slanderous, untruthful statements were given to the press and repeated wherever they could influence public sentiment. The asylum was practically the battle-ground, and the patients were made parties in the conflict as far as possible. Finally the board resolved to close the asylum, ostensibly until the completion of one wing, but literally until the conflict could end, or Dr. Turner would resign. The patients were sent away and Dr. Turner continued the management and erection of the asylum wing with all the energy of his earlier efforts, when an incident occurred which roused the most intense personal feeling, that was never after forgotten, and changed the whole tenor of his life.

Dr. Parker and the lawyer member of the board resolved to starve out Dr. Turner and family. Selecting a favorable moment when he was away, they issued special orders that no groceries or farm supplies should be sent to the asylum from the town, and the asylum farmer should under no circumstances give Dr. Turner's family any milk or produce. Had it not been for some neighboring friends his family would have suffered. Up to this time the struggle had been a great encounter for a scientific truth, in which Dr. Turner had been conscious of success and ultimate triumph. Now it became a personal matter, the lion in his nature was roused, and on to the latest moment of his life he never forgot or forgave these men. In speaking of this event, he said "he suddenly realized that these men were desperate and determined to carry out their projects at all hazards, no matter what the consequences might be."

In 1864, a heavy fire had destroyed some part of the

building, and now, two years later, this lawyer-trustee obtained an indictment against Dr. Turner for arson, alleging that he put fire to the asylum for the purpose of the insurance. This indictment was used to prejudice the public against him in every part of the State, and was finally quashed without a trial. Among those who knew it was regarded as a base conspiracy to destroy his reputation as the founder of the asylum. The storm was at its height; public opinion, which had been against the work and its founder from the beginning, now seemed to concentrate with greater intensity and demand his removal. His friends on the board, who had supported him with great energy and spirit, saw that the outcome of this contest would be to destroy the asylum, and urged that he accept some stated sum and leave the work. To abandon the creation of his life-long efforts, to give up the asylum for which he had given over twenty years' labor, and now, when he was on the eve of demonstrating its success, be forced to leave it to the care of those who had no idea of the work, must have caused the most intense sorrow and disappointment. Dr. Turner, like a true pioneer, could realize, that while he might triumph in a long-continued struggle with the board of trustees, the institution would be more crippled than to give it up and wait for reaction of public opinion, which was sure to come sooner or later. He saw clearly that the asylum treatment of inebriates had begun, and was beyond the power of public opinion or individual effort to crush out.

Dr. Parker and his advisers realized that they had roused up a dangerous antagonist in the founder; that although they had forced him to resign, and tried to ruin him as far as possible, any moment he might appear in some unexpected way and take possession of the asylum, and send a lurid light over their proceedings. To save themselves from this contingency they transferred the property to the State of New York for one dollar consideration, making it a State asylum, expecting in this way to have more certain control of the management. In their eagerness to accomplish this

they made a fatal blunder, which will some day come to judgment and be corrected. The asylum was a stock company and could not be transferred or sold without the consent of the majority of the stockholders. This was not done; the board of trustees assumed ownership and sold it to the State, and it was accepted with their deed. To-day the magnificent property called the New York State Insane Asylum, at Binghamton, is not legally owned by the State, but has been secured by fraud, which will some day be revealed.

In February, 1867, Dr. Turner left the asylum permanently and went to his home in Connecticut. In May following the asylum was opened for patients, and Dr. Day was made superintendent. The contest among the trustees as to the legality of their work and who was entitled to vote, still continued. Dr. Turner's friends determined to dispute every effort to keep the management from degenerating into a "ring," whose only purpose was pecuniary and political gain, but they failed, and one by one dropped out.

In 1869, a fire occurred in the building, and one of the trustees issued a pamphlet accusing Dr. Day and his friends of setting it on fire. A most atrocious statement, showing the character of the trustees. Another illustration of the same spirit appeared in the October number of the *Atlantic Monthly* for 1867, written by James Parton. The chief purpose of the paper was to show the dishonesty of Dr. Turner. He was called an "English adventurer" and other opprobrious names, and it was asserted that the asylum was built by fraudulent representations, and the present management had rescued it from quackery, etc. This paper made a strong impression at the time, yet read to day in the light of subsequent events is literally the greatest compliment that could be paid undesignedly to the genius and skill of Dr. Turner. This paper, like others of the same bitter cast, was badly written, the opprobrious names, the intense personality, the obviously unfair statements, and the minuteness of many of the charges and a description of the motives which prompted

them, were unmistakable evidence of unreliability. The first wave of public opinion might accept such statements, but great wrongs are never written down in that way, and great facts are only fixed and made more apparent by such personal opposition.

Thirteen years later the asylum at Binghamton was declared a failure and changed to an insane hospital. Five different superintendents had each tried to treat the inebriate on the popular plans of the president, and failed. Political intrigue and dishonest management hurried on its final end, but not until the conceptions of its founder and the inspiration which he left in the work had taken root in many new asylums all over the world.

Like the elder Napoleon, Dr. Turner never recognized defeat; perennial hope and a deathless energy filled all his thoughts and efforts. He left the asylum in February, 1867; a few days later he started out on what he humorously called his "second campaign." This was to secure subscriptions for rebuilding the asylum, parts of which had not been completed, and also to procure assignments of the original stock to him by the old stockholders. All his old friends gave him their stock and aided him in every way.

Then followed another long tramp of six years, visiting every prominent man in the country, many of them over and over again, soliciting stock and subscriptions, and explaining the plans and methods of Binghamton, and the wrongs he had suffered. Day after day he persistently sought the homes and offices of the leading men in all professions and business circles, and the story of his pioneer work, its present and future, was heard by nearly every prominent man of the country. The list of subscribers grew daily, and embraced the most intellectual men in the country. Over ninety-five per cent. of the stock was transferred to him, and he was literally the legal owner of the asylum; still he kept on. Now and then he appeared at Binghamton asylum, looking around with great interest at the changes going on, and seemed to become more enthusiastic after such visits.

At length, in 1876, he began a suit against the trustees of the asylum and the State of New York in the United States Circuit Court. After several hearings and a large volume of testimony had been taken, the judge decided against the case on some technical point, but gave leave to amend the complaint, and begin the case in a different way. An appeal was taken to hold the case open for the future, but unfortunately it was never carried any further. Several important legal points were involved requiring a long contest before a decision could be reached, and Dr. Turner was unable to pay the necessary expenses to this end. Several leading men offered to carry on the suit and pay all the bills, taking a per cent. of the stock of the asylum as pay, but for some unknown reason Dr. Turner declined this, fearing that he would lose the asylum again by some combination. He seems to have thought that in the near future he could carry on this suit alone, and have the support of public opinion, and be reinstated as superintendent and owner of the asylum, without difficulty. He seemed to have a growing dread of boards of managers and all partnerships, and preferred to leave undone what he could not do himself. This was a natural outgrowth of his experience. Offers of aid that involved association of interests frightened him, hence this suit was put off to the future, when he could carry it alone. It was also evident that this suit would require a long time to bring to a final issue, so he determined to start another campaign as he called it. This was the organization and building of a great woman's hospital for inebriates and opium eaters. This project was begun in 1875, and after the halting of the suit, in 1877, he gave all his energies to the organization. With a subscription book he started out on the same beaten track which he had traversed for over thirty years, personally visiting all the leading judges, lawyers, college presidents and professors, clergymen, physicians, and governors of States, and every politician of note from the White House down. The subscription was five dollars as a stock company, on the same plan as Binghamton Asylum. Year after year he worked

night and day, traveled all over the country in all seasons, and by all sorts of means. Talked incessantly of the first asylum, and urging his second project of a woman's hospital so successfully, that he procured the largest personal endorsement and subscription lists of names of leading men of the country that had ever been gathered excepting that of Binghamton Asylum. In the winter of 1881 the legislature of the State of Connecticut gave him a charter for the first asylum for women inebriates ever projected on a large scale, called the *National Woman's Hospital*. The citizens of Wilton, Conn., and neighboring towns, contributed freely, and a large tract of land was given the hospital. The board of directors were personal friends, and once more this matchless genius of an organizer was directing the formation and growth of an asylum that might have gone down to all future time. On the tenth of October, 1881, a few hundred farmers and professional friends gathered on a magnificent hill-top, and broke ground for this last new humanitarian work of his life. A little son and daughter of Dr. Turner shoveled the first dirt and wheeled it away. Some speeches, a poem, a prayer, and the work begun. The day was cloudless and beautiful, and will never be forgotten by those who could appreciate Dr. Turner and his far-reaching work.

The plan of the asylum was spacious and artistic, and the plans of subscriptions for building the asylum showed masterly art. Wards, free beds, chapel, parlors, furnishing rooms, capitals, columns, pillars, and everything about the building were to be endowments and gifts to bear the donor's name forever. The subscription book was arranged so that each donor could see where his money would be expended, and how his name would appear in the building.

In all probability no other institution was ever planned with such skill to reach the hearts and the homes of the benevolent, and no other asylum had such a certain promise of success. Dr. Turner had neglected to secure a permanent control of the asylum at Binghamton when it was offered him by resolution of Dr. Mott; now he seemed to have made a

similar mistake in attempting so great a work alone. If he had associated with him a number of influential friends and assistants, the work would soon have been beyond the power of any personal antagonisms. But working alone it would require years of the most arduous labors to complete. The board of trustees were unable to give only their full sympathy and counsel. Three years passed by, and the subscription book of the hospital had grown to enormous proportions. Free beds, free rooms, furnishing of wards, columns, and arches, had been pledged. Over a hundred clergymen had pledged their churches to fit up and furnish one or more rooms. Leading benevolent men of the country had promised large assistance, as soon as the building should be commenced. Material for building both marble and granite was offered free by leading men, and even the railroad company had offered low freights. Over half of the material for the building was pledged by responsible men, and Dr. Turner was in Ohio soliciting the iron for the work, when suddenly, like a stroke of lightning in the clear sky, came the news that a resolution had been offered in the Connecticut State legislature to repeal the charter of the hospital. It was the same old battle inspired by the friends of Dr. Parker, now dead, supported by Parton's article, and urged by a group of men whose names and memories will go down into the future despised and condemned. It was pitiful to see the "Old Pioneer" of forty years of labor for asylum work and inebriates, pleading for the life of this hospital before the legislative committee, offering the magnificent subscription books in evidence, and urging the necessity of the hospital, which every advance of science revealed more and more clearly.

But all in vain, the charter was repealed, and another event was added to the history of the retrograde marches of ignorant law-makers. The State of Connecticut practically destroyed one of the most magnificently planned hospitals, whose future would have been an honor to the State and a blessing to countless homes and families all over the country. When the governor of the State realized the facts, he expressed regrets that he had not known them before, and

offered to aid in having the charter reinstated the next year. The news of this repeal was maliciously spread far and near through the press, and for the first time in a long life of battling, Dr. Turner went home sick and discouraged. This was a Bull Run defeat, and he realized that the "On to Richmond movement" must be made from another point. In a few days all his old energy came back again, and he began to write a book on the history of the movement, and with this as a permanent record he proposed to go before the public in the last great campaign, as he called it. Nearly two years went by before the book was written and published, then he started out again to sell the work and solicit aid to push on the suit against the State for the asylum at Binghamton. His energy and enthusiasm was unabated, but the storms of over forty years had left their scars and impress on his body. He still dreamed of the final restoration of the asylum at Binghamton and the completion of the Woman's Hospital as the crowning events of his life. Night and day he traversed the streets of New York and other large cities, urging the necessities of these asylums, selling his book, and creating interest among public men. How far he was successful it is impossible to determine. The week of his death a number of wealthy men had agreed to meet for the purpose of forming a company to test the question of ownership of the asylum at Binghamton.

The space of this sketch is too limited to go into the details of Dr. Turner's life. The sufferings he endured and the privations he suffered, the scorn and contempt which greeted him, and extended even to his family, can never be written out fully. To a proud man, conscious of being right, this contumely was enough to have crushed out all ambition and destroyed him forever. But Dr. Turner was of heroic cast, and while he felt the grasp of the present, lived in the coming century, always conscious that his work would be recognized and understood in the future. He often said that he would rather have built the asylum at Binghamton than been president of the country, or had accumulated the greatest wealth possible.

In 1888, Dr. Turner issued a large volume called the "History of the First Inebriate Asylum in the World." This was a general history of his forty years' efforts, full of personal details of the men and events which were prominent in the asylum at Binghamton. The book was remarkable in many respects, and will be read by the future generations with ever-increasing interest. In the midst of all his grand plans for the future, maturing hopes and expectations, the end came. On his death bed he said he had never been nearer the realization of his life work than at that moment. This was the human view, but seen higher up his life work was accomplished in a far wider sphere of influence. While on a visit home he was seized with acute nephritis, and died after a short illness, July 24, 1889, sixty-six years of age. It was night, and the wind and rain howled dismally through the dense grove of evergreens that surrounded the house, as about his bed a little family group watched him drift down and disappear into the ocean of the other life. Again the wind and rain sang a sad requiem through the same trees as a small concourse of friends gathered to pay the last respects to one whose real fame is just begun. The plaintive hymn and the touching words of the pastor, the subdued sob, and all that was mortal of Dr. Turner was hid from view forever. The sun shone out through a rift in the clouds as the body was lowered in the grave, a striking symbol of the stormy life now ended. "That which hath been shall be, and there is nothing new under the sun."

Dr. Turner's life march was over the same old road, and across the same bridges, through the same storms and tempests, and finally reached the same end. It was the pathway along which all the heroes and martyrs of time have passed. Dr. Turner found the great truth that inebriety is a disease and curable in hospitals, and organized it into the realm of practical science. He was more than a discoverer, he was an organizer of truth into the service of humanity. His forty years' labors have already borne fruit, and to-day there are over one hundred inebriate asylums in the world, all the

direct result of Dr. Turner's efforts in founding the first asylum at Binghamton. These asylums are increasing, and it is no prophecy to realize in the future that they will be as numerous as those of the insane; then Dr. Turner and his work will be the great historical study and central character from which all progress in this field of science will date. Dr. Turner's life was centered in founding and putting in operation a model inebriate asylum. He was a man of one clear conception of truth and duty that dominated every other consideration, and while he was a bitter antagonist to those who sought to ruin his reputation and work, he was unusually generous and liberal in his views. The intense personal conflicts he passed through left no trace of bitterness in his private life. As he grew older, he became more and more conscious that his reputation was fixed beyond the power of the present to break up. While his faith was boundless, his belief in works was also great, hence every moment was occupied in incessant activity.

Binghamton Asylum was built from an idea that was condemned and denounced by all the world. The Woman's National Hospital was projected and organized to meet a necessity recognized by every one. The one was opposed by superstition and ignorance, the other was crushed out by malice and personal hatred. Both asylums will yet live. The one at Binghamton will be restored to its legal owners some day. The National Woman's Hospital will be built somewhere on the same basis as projected by Dr. Turner. He mapped out the work, and other men must carry it out. He was one of those rare spirits of whom only a few appear during the centuries, and while they are markedly human and mortal, leave a record of acts and deeds that are immortal. When the storms of prejudice and passion shall die away, and the march of science shall develop the scientific treatment of inebriety in asylums, then we shall see the work of Dr. Turner more clearly, and be able to appreciate the deathless ambition to organize and found an asylum that filled all his thoughts from early manhood to the latest moment of life.

Dr. Turner's life seemed unfortunate to the superficial observer, but viewed more accurately it was most fortunate. He found a great truth trodden under foot, reviled and ridiculed by the ignorant bigots of the world, and he lived long enough to see it (chiefly by his own efforts) established in science, inseparably incorporated with the common thoughts of his day and generation. What could any one desire more than that? What fame is greater and more lasting than a permanent contribution to the working truths of the world? His was a life of weary battling, of sorrow, of suffering, of wilderness marches, that at last beat out a new pathway to the promised land of human progress and growth. "That which hath been shall be, and there is nothing new under the sun."

"What though the martyrs and prophets have perished,
The angel of life rolls the stone from their graves;
Immortal 's the faith and the truth which they cherished,
Their lone triumph-cry stirs the spirit of braves.

"They are gone, but a glory is left for our life,
Like the day god's last kiss on the darkness of even;
Gone down on the desolate seas of their strife,
To climb as star-beacons up liberty's heavens."

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